

Minutes

Western Region Council Meeting

November 20, 2008
Cedar City Employment Center
Cedar City, Utah

Attendance: Liz Barker, Mike Beacco, Lois Bulloch, Joe Christopher, Cindy Greathouse, Ray Holt (for Jennifer Lion), Lloyd Loveless, Kristi McMullin, Larry Pearson, Sandy Phillips, Lavoy Starley, Leon Stewart, Jan Thompson,

Youth Council: Mike Beacco, Steve Schofield, Colleen Tucker, Stephen Lisonbee

DWS Staff: Ann Barnson, Jolene Bundy, Bob Cranford, Lorri Economy, Mary Excell, Jan Howes, Lecia Langston, Kathy Leydsman, Stephen Lisonbee, Dennie Tsuya

Guests: Sheryl Mintz, Cameron,

Excused: Karen Alvey, Wayne Shamo, Stewart Shaver, Dale Peel, Kyle Ashby, George Cross, Roene Shaw, Rich Blackwell, Ivan Cowley, Rich VanAusdal, Blair Painter, David Kinder, Joe Bernini, Dana Miller, John Slade

Absent: George Cross, Glenn Greenhalgh, Cody Gower,

Minutes: Jolene Bundy

Educational Session

Welcome – Joe Christopher

Joe welcomed everyone to the council meeting and introduced Lecia Langston. Lecia is the Economist for Workforce Services covering the Western Region. Joe turned the time over to Lecia to give us the current up to date Economic News about the region and the state.

Lecia said the Economy is the biggest news in the media and what everyone is concerned with right now. She said on TV they make it sound so depressing. She didn't want to be the bearer of bad news but the Voice of Reason. Then she gave a presentation explaining what is a depression, recession, and terms that is being used in the media. She gave the data and information to determine if we are in a recession, and what the outlook is for Western Region now and for the future.

Lunch

Afternoon Session

Welcome – Sandy Phillips

Sandy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Agenda Item: Outstanding Customer Presentations – Jan Thompson

Jan said we had some outstanding customers to recognize. They are from the 5 county area. Those from the 6 county area will be recognized in our next meeting in Richfield.

- Beaver County Sherriff's Office - Dennie Tsuya, the Beaver Employment Center Manager, recognized the Beaver County Sherriff's Office as an outstanding employer. There to accept the award was Cameron, the Beaver County Sherriff.
- Ryan Sidwell - Dennie Tsuya recognized Ryan as an outstanding WIA youth customer.
- Cari Monfredi - Dennie Tsuya also recognized Cari Hardy Monfreddie as a WIA Adult customer.
- Darren Davis from Beaver was selected by the state and was recognized at the State Council Meeting. He is also from Beaver. He was invited to come today if he wanted but elected not to since he was already recognized at the state.
- Sheryl Mintz - Jan Howes from the St. George Employment Center recognized Sheryl as a WIA Adult customer.

Agenda Item : Region Update – Jan Thompson

- Jan gave an update on the on-line application for supportive services. It went on the Web the end of September or first of October. They did a soft launce with out a lot of advertising. She said it has impacted the application process even though it was a soft launch. The caseload has gone up since it went on line but it is also a reflection of the economy downturn. More are applying for supportive services and training.
- Telephone interviews have been implemented where customers are calling in for their interviews rather than having to come into the office. It has been a benefit for customers, especially with the high price of gas. They will still have to turn in their job contacts, verifications, and follow all requirements for eligibility. Employees are making the transition to doing the business over the phone well.
- The 4-day workweek continues to be a debate. There are some positives and negatives. The Department of Human Resource Management has done an employee survey and a follow-up one is currently in the process to see how they think it is working, what issues have been resolve, and what issues are still out there such as day care and second jobs. Jan said even the time change, going to work in the dark and coming home in the dark, has made a big difference. Jan is asking employees how they feel about it as she goes to the different centers and a conservative 90% are happy with it and don't want to go back to the 5 day work week.
 - Customers – they are trying to get information from customers to see what their feelings are. There has been an increase in the customers calling in on the phone lines early in the morning before they have to go to work.
- Joe asked if the phone line has decreased the foot traffic. Jan said yes. The traffic has been reduced. Customers still have to bring in verifications and eligibility papers, but it has reduced the number of times they are required to come in to the center. However, the numbers of cases is still going up so there hasn't been a big change in the numbers of customers coming in. There is just a change in the type of customers coming in. There has been a rise in customers looking for jobs.

- Joe said it looks like the administration is in favor of extending unemployment benefits. He asked if that would affect the traffic. Jan said it will increase calls at the UI Call center and when that increases it usually increases in the local centers as well as they come in or call in looking for work.
- Larry Pearson asked if there has been change in the business side. Jan said we have received numerous rapid response notifications of businesses laying off or closing. Not as many as along the Wasatch Front but there have been significant numbers of companies laid off or closing. Jan said the latest information she has received is that Moroni Feed in Sanpete County will stop their processing plant and 300 individuals will be laid off on Monday until March. That many will make a big impact on that center.
- The rapid response team doesn't get all of the information. One example is Famous Davis Barbeque in St. George just closed one day. There was no warning. They just closed.
- Jan wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and Holiday Season and thanked them for their help and support.

Agenda Item: State Council Update

Annual Report – Lorri Economy

Lorri said the annual report for the Department of Workforce Services is now out. It is available on line. There is also a copy of it in your meeting packet.

Motorfest – Joe Christopher

- Joe said the motorfest was held in Salt Lake in October. They had over 2000 Youth that attended the event and it seemed to be very successful. One of the ideas that came out of that is the possibility of combining the Motorfest, Construction Days, and the Health Job Fair in the future. That will be discussed the first of the year.
- Brochures have gone out to the High School counselors to give out to the students as well as to the repair shops and automotive related businesses to try to recruit automotive technicians.
- Cindy said Sales in cars new and used has slowed down, but the repairs have not. That will still continue so repair technicians are still needed.
- The motorfest newspaper that has been handed out to each one was given out to all of the students at the motorfest. It was a cooperative effort with Education that made that happen. LaVoy said the sign on page 2 is the career pathway that was talked about. That is the official sign showing it is a career pathway.

Operations and Performace – Jan Thompson

Jan said the reports are included in the packet and show we are doing very well in our WIA performances. Customers are doing well.

Agenda Item: Why are we Here? – Sandy

Sandy said she has a question. That is “Why are we here?” This lead into a discussion as to the role of the Region Council Members and why they are here.

- Sandy thanked Lecia for her presentation because now she has a small clue as to why **she** is here and the part she can play on the council. She wanted an idea on what would get council members involved in the council so they play a bigger part on the council.
- Kathy Leydsman said, as an employee working at DWS, when they talk about issues over and over they get a narrowing of vision and lose site of the bigger perspective in order to do a better job. They need that outside voice to broaden their vision. That outside voice is the Council members.
- Joe said he started with the same feelings Sandy had and felt he had no impact. Then he got more involved as the co-chair and attended the State council meeting and more events and he then saw the bigger picture. He thinks most of the Private Sector members feel they don't have much impact because they don't see the big picture.
- Larry said it does take a while to figure out. The private sector isn't used to being asked their opinions as to what the government does. If we can work together as private businesses and government we can help the youth coming up and that is what the nuts and bolts are all about. This council is a chance to say how and why.
- Jan said at the last meeting the council voted to send a letter to Public Ed, Higher Ed, Board of Regents, Governor, and others, concerning concurrent enrollment and transferring of credits. Jan said her own children met these same roadblocks but she couldn't do anything about it. As this council became educated in this and sent the letter, it has been read and has had an impact. She can't say what will happen but they will be contacting her as to why the council feels so strong about this. Without this group that letter would not have been read. That is one small example of our ability to have an impact.
- Lorri said what we are really asking is for the council members to come and tell us what they think so we can pass it along up the line. We need **YOUR** ideas so we can make changes that will make things better.
- Lois Bulloch said she is a firm believer in not having meetings just to have meetings and she would like someone to tell her the purpose of these meetings and what the goals of these meetings are and why she is here.
- Leon Stewart said he has been involved in the Governors taskforce and it appears that the cooperation of these entities will become stronger and not weaker. He thinks committees like this will probably have a bigger impact on where the funding goes around the state and it will be important to be involved in order to get that funding.
- LaVoy said an example of accomplishments of the council is the Nursing Classes that were started in the region because of this group. The CTE's are ready to help with technical training on any careers needed but if it's not important enough for people to say it there will be people with a 4-year degree working in fast food places. We need training for what the workforce needs. That comes from this council.
- Lois felt we needed a brain storming session at each meeting where ideas are brought to the table.

- Joe said today was different because they felt Lecia's presentation in Economics was timely and so gave her the whole time but normally the council breaks up into committee's where they have the brain storming and bringing of ideas to the council.
- Kristie McMullin said the level of issues and challenges DWS faces are broad and goes up and down and the changes for each committee is constantly changing. If you miss a meeting, by the time you come back the issues have changed because things are changing so fast. She said she knows it matters to have the council backing the issues.
- Lorri explained we have been having the education part of the meeting as a way to try to encourage more council members to attend. The State council has been working on the industry sectors. That has pretty much changed the way the taskforces have been working. But they want ideas that will help get more members to attend.
- Kathy said there would always be a portion of this meeting that will seem somewhat mundane because the statutes require we do certain things. Part of Jan's responsibility requires her to report on what is going on in the region and give updates and progress reports on what DWS is doing. Kathy said this meeting will be what those who come and participate want it to be. If we are willing to sit by and let it not be one where we are engaged that's what it will be. If we speak up and say lets have a time when we can have concerns of the region, that's what it will be.
- Sandy said she felt like Lois's suggestion of a brainstorming session would be helpful and she was happy to learn that if they had anything to talk about they could and not just come to listen.
- Joe said all council members are invited to attend the State Council and if they will attend that meeting it might give them a better perspective on what the roll of the council is.
- Jan said by the State Council Meeting in January we may know more about the governor's 21st century initiatives for 2009 that Leon was talking about. Some of those recommendations strengthen the voice of the councils so that the State council becomes a council that reports directly to the Governor. The recommendations were all about strengthening the roll of the councils.
- Cindy asked if there was anything that would show some of the accomplishments of this council over the years. Jan said the Council chairs report at each state council meeting what this council has done and we would be able to get that for her.
- Larry suggested having Jan bring a list of 4 or 5 items as things that need to be accomplished or addressed to the meeting for discussion
- Jan said it is more than that. As Private Employers this is your meeting to tell us (DWS) what things you would like us to do to help you as well as what you can do to help us. This goes for everyone. What can we do to help the county commissioners, or Liz in childcare, or those in education, etc. How can we help each other? That is what this meeting is for.
- Lois suggested different groups such as county commissioners, education, etc. have their own meeting. Then they bring their issues back to the council.

- LaVoy said one example of issues to discuss is concurrent enrollment. There are some folks who want students to start paying for that credit in High School. It was designed in the first place so rural kids without much money had an opportunity to get college credit. They said distance to college campuses is also a part of the incentive for this program. LaVoy said he is afraid it will kill that program if they require students to pay for those credits. That is something that could come to the table. Kathy said this is the perfect thing that the council could address.
- Jan said something that could come up is an entity that is proposing a bill that would prevent a transfer of credit between CTE and Higher Ed and UCAT schools. A secondary discussion began when LaVoy, Leon, and Kristie tried to explain what is happening between those schools and higher ed.
- The discussion was summarized by saying this meeting is **your** meeting to bring **your** issues to the meeting for discussion.

Youth Council Report: Mike Beacco

Mike said the Youth Council basically talked about the same thing the council just talked about. They talked about why they are here, what their role is, and how to get members here. More members are needed for the Youth Council. If anyone knows of anyone that would like to be on the council please let Mike or Ann know.

- The council decided to have a separate meeting from the regular council meeting. They hope they will get more members to attend that way. When they come to Region council meeting they don't have time to meet as a youth council because of the educational meeting first so they are going to have a separate meeting some time in December. It hasn't been scheduled yet but will be just the Youth Council members.

Meeting was adjourned - Leon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Liz seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.
Next Meeting – February 19 in Richfield.

Action Items November 20, 2007			
Item #	Person responsible	Action Item	Date to be completed
1.	Lorri	Get list of council accomplishments to Cindy and anyone else wanting it.	2/19/09
2.	All	Bring issues you would like to discuss to the meeting.	2/19/09

Conclusions/Decisions	
1.	The minutes from the August 21st meeting were approved.
2.	They agreed to have a brainstorming session at each meeting to decide issues to work on.
3.	